

2006

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LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

ARTS AND SCIENCES

EXPLORER

2006 EDITION



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La Salle Communication major Lou Persighan stands beside a sculpture as he contemplates *Course A Chantilly* by Alfred Reth, on display in the Modern and Contemporary gallery in the La Salle Art Museum. More and more, it is not just Art History classes that are visiting the museum. Professors from many disciplines are taking advantage of the museum's proximity and incorporating the collection into their courses. (see full story on Page 3)

Explorer. Perhaps the first image this word brings to mind for anyone in the La Salle family is the mascot of the University's athletic teams. Upon further reflection, the name of this newsletter conjures up many other vivid images, revealing some of the traits that give our School of Arts and Sciences its unique character.

Our faculty help students learn to explore multiple facets of themselves by stretching their intellect in a values-based environment, which allows them to transfer underlying theories to practical applications for everyday living. We also encourage our students to explore the city of Philadelphia, and the region that surrounds it, taking advantage of the wide array of cultural offerings, historical treasures, and social opportunities unlike those available anywhere else. But local and regional boundaries do not limit our students as they explore the world through study

abroad, travel study, and blocks of courses focused on various regions of the world. These experiences educate our students about the politics, geography, history, language, literature, and culture of other countries.

This issue of the *Explorer* will help you understand how the title of this newsletter reflects the creativity of our faculty and students as it illustrates their scholarly pursuits and their engagement with their neighborhood and the world. You will learn how treasures on our campus such as the Art Museum enhance our learning environment and how faculty-mentored research collaboration offers our students the opportunity to touch their dreams even as the Christian Brothers educational experience touches their hearts.

I hope you will take the time to look through this issue of the *Explorer* to learn more about the many exciting developments in our school. When you finish,



I invite you to use the contact information below to touch base with the people and programs that most closely reflect your interests. We always enjoy hearing from our alumni and friends, and there are many ways you can help us. Please ask us for details.

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This newsletter is published annually by La Salle University's School of Arts and Sciences and the Office of University Communications.

To submit ideas and for all other inquiries, please contact Teri Ceraso, Assistant Dean, at 215.951.1042, e-mail ceraso@lasalle.edu, or visit www.lasalle.edu.



La Salle Art Museum Inspires and Educates Students in Many Disciplines

by Amy Gardner

Tintoretto was one of the greatest artists of the late Renaissance period. While most students studying him view his paintings as a picture in a textbook, La Salle students are lucky enough to simply walk across campus and view a Tintoretto first-hand at the La Salle Art Museum.

Theopolis Fair, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, is one of many La Salle professors from beyond the Art Department who have recognized the benefits of integrating the museum into their classes.

In addition to viewing the Tintoretto, Fair leads his classes through the museum's various galleries to view how art changes through history. For example, during the early Renaissance, paintings were all very religious in nature, but as the Renaissance continued, artwork became more secular, and self-portraiture grew more popular. Also, the invention of photography in 1839, Fair points out, made a large impact on art, as abstract art began to emerge.

For their first assignment, Mary Robertson, Ph.D., Director of the Sheekey Writing Center, takes the freshmen in her College Writing class to the museum. Students are instructed to choose a painting from the more than 450 paintings on display and write a descriptive essay about the work.

When the students turn in a draft of their essay to Robertson, they turn in two copies—one is for Robertson and the other is given to a fellow student. The students then sketch what they believe the painting looks like based on how it is described in the essay.

"This exercise teaches the students the importance of description, and it helps

them to become stronger, more professional writers," Robertson said.

Brother Joseph Dougherty, F.S.C., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religion, brings his students to the museum for one reason: "We have a world-class art museum here at La Salle," he said.

"By studying works of art by artists who really thought about how to create compelling images, students will acquire an understanding of how images communicate."

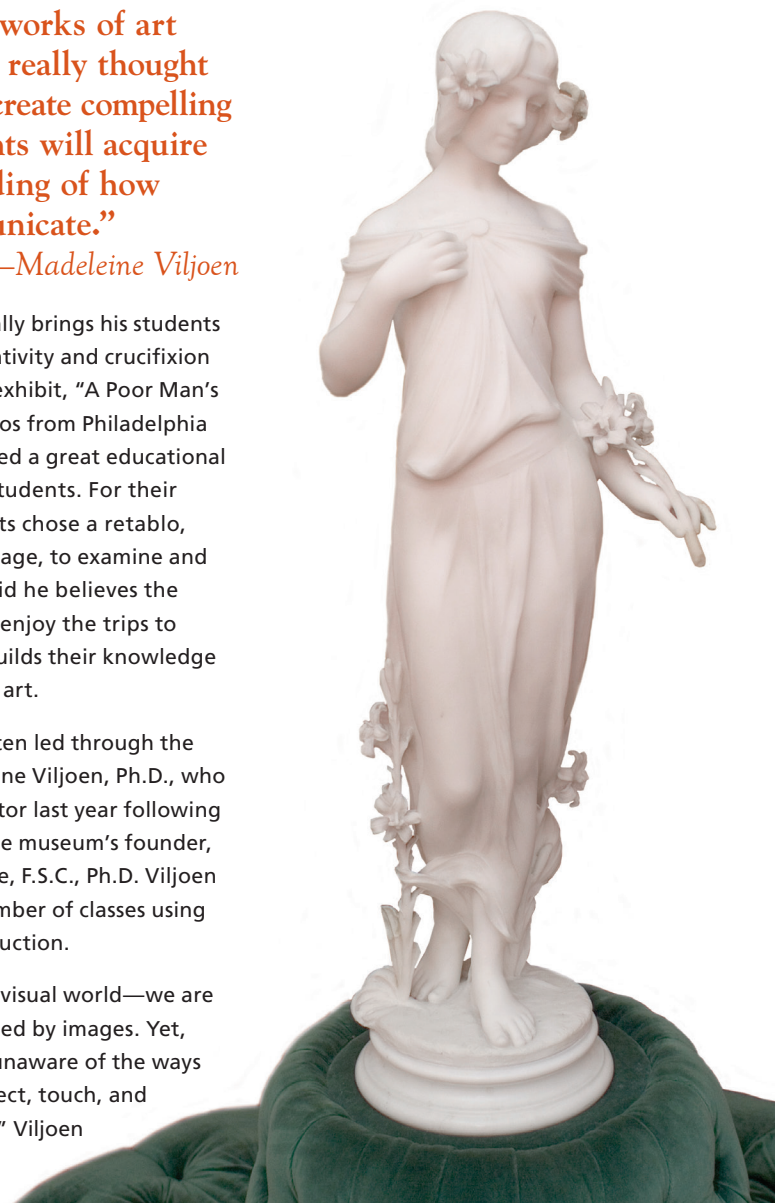
—Madeleine Viljoen

Although he generally brings his students to view the many nativity and crucifixion paintings, a recent exhibit, "A Poor Man's Art: Mexican Retablos from Philadelphia Collections," provided a great educational experience for his students. For their assignment, students chose a retablo, or small religious image, to examine and interpret. Br. Joe said he believes the students genuinely enjoy the trips to the museum, as it builds their knowledge and appreciation of art.

The students are often led through the museum by Madeleine Viljoen, Ph.D., who was named its director last year following the retirement of the museum's founder, Brother Daniel Burke, F.S.C., Ph.D. Viljoen is thrilled by the number of classes using the museum in instruction.

"We live in a highly visual world—we are constantly bombarded by images. Yet, many of us remain unaware of the ways in which images affect, touch, and even manipulate us," Viljoen

said. "By studying works of art by artists who really thought about how to create compelling images, students will acquire an understanding of how images communicate. A critical appreciation of images, I believe, complements text-based studies. Reading and seeing are vital tools for anyone graduating from college today."



STUDENTS, FACULTY TACKLE RESEARCH CHALLENGES

by Jon Caroulis

More than ever, faculty and students are teaming up for research projects that explore questions of science, culture, education, and literature. What follows is a sampling of recent student-faculty collaborations.

In an independent research project, **JOHN BEATTY, PH.D.**, Assistant Professor of English, and **MAUREEN CECH, '05**, collaborated on a survey to find out the motivations of people who create fansites for the famous and infamous. From their data, they presented a paper at the national conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication last August in San Antonio, Texas.

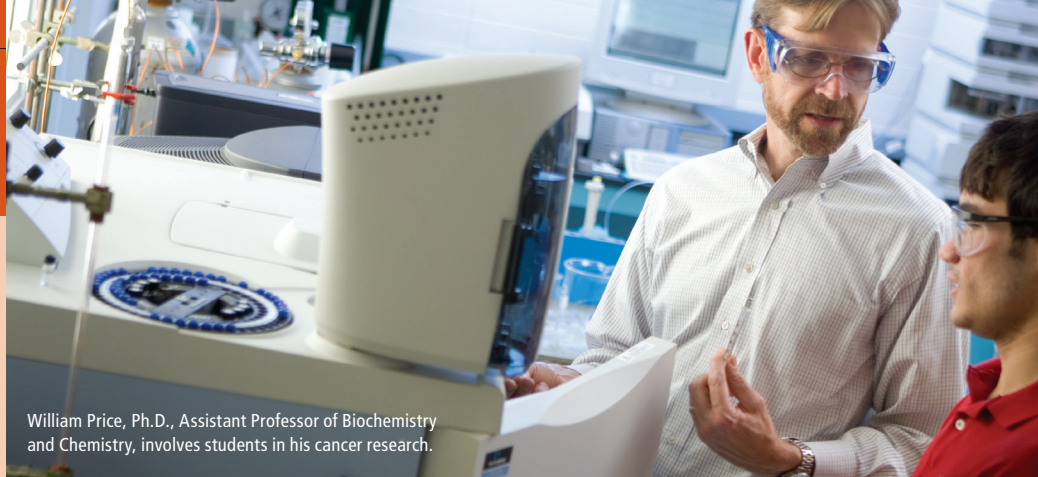
SHANE MISURO, '07, is the latest of a number of La Salle students who have collaborated with Biology Professor **GERALD BALLOUGH, PH.D.**, on developing an anti-chemical warfare compound.

Recently, Ballough and Misuro presented a poster on their research at the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.

WILLIAM PRICE, PH.D., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Chemistry, has developed a compound called "LS 5" (for La Salle 5) that makes cancerous tumor cells "hyper-susceptible" to gamma radiation, thereby reducing the need for dangerously high doses of radioactive treatment.

Price collaborates with other scientists at Philadelphia's Fox Chase Cancer Center and often involves his students in the process.

"I think my collaborations with other professionals in the field, like those at Fox Chase, have helped me to better articulate and explain concepts by relating real-world experiences to my students," he said.



William Price, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Chemistry, involves students in his cancer research.

GREGORY GETHARD's love of sports was an asset when he had to submit a topic for his 20th-Century German History course in La Salle's master's program in Central and Eastern European Studies. His paper, "How Soccer Explains Post-War Germany," not only earned him an A, but it was also published in the journal *Soccer and Society*.

Gethard's research, conducted for his history course with German Professor **BERNHARDT BLUMENTHAL, PH.D.**, showed that the success and setbacks of German soccer teams mirrored the country's "Economic Miracle" in the 1950s and later. He also found that recent team failures reflect the difficulty East Germans have had in adapting to a capitalistic society.

Growing up on two continents, **LUISA OSSA, PH.D.**, realized that the populations of the Caribbean and South America were similar to those in the U.S. because of the mix of cultures. An Assistant Professor of Spanish, Ossa studies and writes about how the Asian and African culture and presence have influenced Latin American writers.

Last spring, Ossa mentored senior **GIAVANNA DERITA** in a research project that examined the displacement of Afro-Colombians. DeRita then presented her findings at La Salle's Foreign Languages Symposium.

SHARON SCHOEN, ED.D., an Associate Professor in the Elementary/Special Education program, makes every student a research partner through student-teaching experiences.

During their student-teaching assignments, La Salle students take Schoen's course in Teaching and Research Methods. Schoen instructs them in four methods for dealing with behavior problems. If the student teacher has a disruptive student, the student teacher uses the methods Schoen has taught and measures their effectiveness by keeping a journal and then discussing it with Schoen.

Schoen has co-authored more than a dozen published papers with La Salle students based on their findings about the techniques they used.

CIAO, TORINO! STUDENTS WORK FOR NBC AT OLYMPIC GAMES



Eleven La Salle University Communication majors worked as NBC interns at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, in February. The students worked for 12 or more hours a day, seven days a week, alongside NBC staff in the international media village in Torino. Two interns worked as production associates; two were runners; and seven were loggers (taking detailed notes on videotape of Olympic events).

NBC representatives visited La Salle to present the Winter Olympics internship to Communication majors. The opportunity was offered to students at just six universities nationwide.

SCHOOL'S IN FOR SUMMER *by Marian Morton*

Every July for the past six years, middle-school students, many from the neighborhoods surrounding La Salle, have been invited to campus for two weeks to take classes in foreign languages, oceanography, social studies, microbiology, and other subjects. But the Secondary Education Summer Enrichment Program is more than just a learning experience for the kids—their teachers are students, too.

"This experience is critical in our development of high-quality secondary educators," said Frank Mosca, Ph.D., Chair of the Education Department.

For the students in La Salle's Master's in Education program, which leads to Secondary Education certification, the summer

program is their first foray into teaching students using lesson units that they have created, managing a diverse group of young learners, and adjusting their instruction to meet the challenges of the classroom.

"Kids love the program—many ask if they can stay for five or six weeks instead of just two," said Maryanne Bednar, Ph.D., a Professor of Education who co-directs the program with Professor John Sweeder, Ed.D.



Michael Carter, M.Ed. '02, as a Secondary Education graduate student, works with middle-schoolers during La Salle's Summer Enrichment Program.

STUDENT SINGLED OUT FOR COMPETITIVE MATH PROGRAM *by Marian Morton*



Meridyth Mascio, a senior Mathematics major, was among just 16 undergraduates selected from universities nationwide to participate in the George Washington University Summer Program for Women in Mathematics in Washington, D.C.

During the five-week program, which was sponsored by the National Security Agency, Mascio and the other students took graduate-level courses in dynamical systems, public key cryptography, convex polytopes, and Groebner bases. They also visited the National Cryptologic Museum, NSA headquarters, and the U.S. Census Bureau, and met with women in various

math-related professions to learn more about the opportunities for careers in math.

"The Summer Program for Women in Math gave me a very good sense of accomplishment," Mascio said. "It taught me that a career in math was something I could do and something I want to do."

Mascio's talents and achievements have not gone unnoticed by those who have taught her and worked with her.

"Meridyth greatly enjoys learning and is keen to get a thorough understanding of the topics covered," said Anne Edlin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Mascio's mentor in her Honors research project on cryptography. "She is one of the most amazing students I have ever taught."

Tom Keagy, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, also taught Mascio in an upper-level Real Analysis course.

"Even given the strength of this class, Meridyth stood out by way of her original thinking, careful logic, and extraordinary work ethic," Keagy said. "I am very proud of her accomplishments and confident in her future. On top of it all, she is a fine person, and I am truly honored to have her counted among my students."

DID YOU KNOW...

... A FORENSIC SCIENCE MINOR has been developed? Students may choose from two tracks: Crime Scene Processing for non-science majors or Evidence Analysis for physical science majors. This new minor will familiarize students with forensic terminology, legal and ethical issues, evidence, and the structure of a crime scene.

...THE INTEGRATED SCIENCE, BUSINESS, AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM has entered into a partnership with Einstein Hospital's osteopathic department to begin innovative medical research? Currently, faculty members are developing procedures to study a new type of bone cement containing medication for patients. After two years of collaboration with the hospital, the department plans for students to begin conducting these experiments in late spring, continuing into this summer and next fall.

...LA SALLE'S COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT began its second international graduate program in January? Now, the University has a presence in Athens, Greece, as well as in Prague, Czech Republic. Ten students have enrolled in the Professional Communication and Public Relations master's degree program at New York College in Athens.

FACULTY NOTES

The accomplishments of the School of Arts and Sciences faculty are many and varied. The following are but a sampling of recent activities:

BARBARA ALLEN, History, presented "Shliapnikov, Medvedev, and the 'Baku Affair,' 1924-1926: Factionalism, Provocation or Just a Misunderstanding?" at "Labour History of Russia and the Soviet Union: Work in Progress," a conference of the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

VIVIENNE SM ANGELES, Religion, presented "From Catholic to Muslim: Women's Stories, Gender Roles and the Balik-Islam Movement in the Philippines" at the University of Passau, Germany.

MARY ELLEN BALCHUNIS-HARRIS, Political Science, presented "What They Don't Tell Women About Reporting Discrimination and Sexual Harassment" at the Women's Caucus of the American Political Science Association National Conference in Washington, D.C.

BERNHARDT BLUMENTHAL, Foreign Languages and Literatures, published "End of Days," an original poem, in *The Best Poems and Poets of 2004*.

CLAIRE BUSSE, English, authored "Pretty Fictions and Little Stories: Child Actors on the Early Modern Stage" in *Childhood and Children's Books in Early Modern Europe, 1550-1800*, Routledge Press.

JAMES BUTLER, English, received the 2005 La Salle University Distinguished Scholar Award.

SANDRA CAMOMILE, Mathematics and Computer Science/DART, presented "Postcards from the Edge" at the Robert Miller Gallery in New York City.

JOSEPH CATANIO, Computer Science, authored "Requirements Analysis: A Review" in *Proceedings of the International Confer-*

ence on Systems, Computing Sciences, and Software Engineering, IEEE Book Publication.

GARY CLABAUGH, Education, co-authored with Alison Clabaugh "Bad Apples or Sour Pickles? Fundamental Attribution Error and the Columbine Massacre" in *Educational Horizons*.

LYNN COLLINS, Psychology, presented "Mobbing and Discrimination: An international systemic perspective" at the 113th annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C.

SIOBHAN CONATY, Fine Arts/Art History, received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to attend a seminar in Rome led by Frank Snowden, Ph.D., of Yale University.

JOHN CONNORS, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work, presented "Religion, Social Change and Systemic Racism" at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Philadelphia.

MARIANNE DANTON, Communication, authored "Maintenance Behaviors, Expectations for Maintenance, and Satisfaction: Linking comparison levels to relational maintenance strategies" in *Understanding Research in Personal Relationships: A Text with Readings*.

CHARLES DESNOYERS, History, served as contributing editor of *Western Civilization to 1500* by Walter Kirchner, Harper Collins College Outline Series.

BROTHER JOSEPH DOUGHERTY, Religion, authored a review of "Creating Uncommon Worship: Transforming the Liturgy of the Eucharist" in *Religion and the Arts*.

PRESTON FEDEN, Education, authored "Fiction High School: Where Things Have to Make Sense" in *Educational Horizons*.

DONNA FIEDLER, Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, authored "ISM and IST: Effective Tools for Cultural Awareness" in *The New Social Worker*.

FRANK GARDNER, Psychology/Psy.D., co-authored with Z.E. Moore "Using a Case Formulation Approach in Sport Psychology Consulting" in *The Sport Psychologist*.

DAVID GEORGE, Economics, presented "Moral Implications of Preference Change" at the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs at Boston University.

PATRICIA HABERSTROH, Fine Arts, joined the Editorial Board of the *Irish Feminist Review* at the National University of Ireland in Galway.

JEFFREY KELLY, Chair, Religion, authored "Finding Sustenance in the Midst of Disappointment: A Look at Karl Rahner's Theology of Resurrection" in *The Living Pulpit*.

RAYMOND KIRSCH, Mathematics and Computer Science, completed two works of sculpture accepted into the juried 28th annual Bucks County Sculpture Show.

JEFFREY LAMONICA, History, presented "The Great War at Sea" at the East Coast Chapter of the Western Front Association Spring Seminar in Philadelphia.

DOLORES LEHR, English, presented "Gabriela Mistral and Wislawa Szymborska: War, Peace, and Politics" at the Pennsylvania College English Association Conference in Gettysburg.

STUART LEIBIGER, History, was Scholar-in-Residence at "Shaping the Constitution: A View from Mount Vernon," a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History Teacher Workshop in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

TEACHER, COUNSELOR RELISHES HIS WORK

Many people consider themselves lucky if they find one career to be passionate about. So Brother Arthur Bangs, F.S.C., Ph.D., '53, feels doubly blessed to have found two, as a teacher and a counselor.

Br. Arthur works as a licensed psychologist in the Counseling Center, taking appointments with students who need someone to talk with about stress, anxiety, depression, relationship trouble, and other issues. He also brings those counseling instincts with him to the Educational Psychology classes he teaches in the Education Department.

"I like to see my role as a teacher in the classroom as a mentor, as someone students can come to for help for any reason, and as a good listener," he said. "I like to find any way I can be of help in their lives."

In Br. Arthur's 37 years at La Salle, he has stepped away from his work at the University only a few times, including once to serve as director of the American College Program at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, from 1979 to 1982.

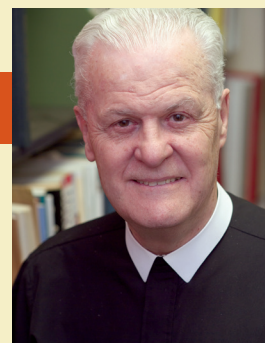
Br. Arthur loves education—not only teaching it, but living it as well. He holds a bachelor's degree in education-classics from La Salle

(he was a *maxima cum laude* graduate), three master's degrees, and a doctorate.

He once played four instruments, but he has now scaled back to two: the organ and the piano. He keeps up with history and theology by reading biographies and religious materials, and he enjoys traveling, particularly to European cities. He said he considers his most satisfying accomplishment to be adding 19 years to his younger brother's life by giving him one of his kidneys.

Br. Arthur began his career at high schools in Pittsburgh, Arlington, Va., and Washington, D.C., teaching Latin and religion. At one school, the principal approached him to ask if he would be interested in becoming a counselor to students. That one conversation started Br. Arthur's career as a self-described "hybrid" of teacher and counselor.

"My whole life's pleasure has been working with younger people," Br. Arthur said. "It's invigorating. Working with youth tends to keep you young."



FACULTY NOTES

JENNIFER BLOCK LERNER, Psychology, co-authored "ACT with Anxiety Disorders" in *A Clinician's Guide to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy*.

LING LIANG, Education, co-authored with D.L. Gabel "Effectiveness of a Constructivist Approach to Science Instruction for Prospective Elementary Teachers" in the *International Journal of Science Education*.

CARL MCCARTY, Mathematics and Computer Science, authored multiple reviews of papers dealing with complex variables for the American Mathematical Society's *Mathematical Review*.

KELLY MCCLURE, Psychology, co-authored "Feasibility and Preliminary Outcomes from a Pilot Study of a Brief Psychological Intervention for Families of Children Newly Diagnosed with Cancer" in the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*.

MARGARET MCCOEY, Computer Science, lectured at the Johns Hopkins Colloquium Center for Talented Youth at the University of Pennsylvania.

SUSAN MCDONALD, Fine Arts/Music, was featured in an International Celebration of Music organized by the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States for her work as director of the first La Salle Festival of Electro-Acoustic Music.

ROSEANNE MCDUGALL, Religion, received a grant from the University of Notre Dame and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Religion to participate in "Teaching Introductory Theology and Religion: Lessons from the Practice of 50 Effective Teachers."

MARGARET MCMANUS, Mathematics and Computer Science, participated in a panel presentation, "International Initiatives: A Co-Curricular Approach to Global Awareness," at the annual conference of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences in Vancouver, Canada.

GINGER MODLA and **DONNA WAKE**, Education, presented "Using a Culturally Responsive Approach to Multicultural Literature to Prepare Preservice Teachers to Work with All Students" at the College Reading Association Conference in Savannah, Georgia.

BROTHER EMERY MOLLENHAUER, F.S.C., English, received a grant to participate in a contemporary poetry class at the University of California, Berkeley.

DIANE MONTAGUE, Psychology, was cited in "Reading Your Baby's Mind" in *Newsweek*.

RICHARD MSHOMBA, Economics, served as guest analyst on three radio broadcasts, the University of Toronto Public Radio, Voice of America, and Radiolam, dealing with the G8 Summit in Scotland and the world campaign for Aid to Africa.

JUDITH MUSSER, English, penned the entry on Effie Lee Newsome for the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*.

ERIN O'HEA, Psychology/Psy.D., co-authored "Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders: Integrated psychosocial treatment for mental illness and addiction" in the *Handbook of Effective Treatments in Psychiatry*.

MICHAEL PRUSHAN, Chemistry, authored "Copper(II) Complexes of Tetradentate Thioether-Oxime Ligands" in *Inorganica Chimica Acta*, which has become one of *Science Direct's* "Top 25 Hottest Articles" (ranked seventh out of 25).

GAIL RAMSHAW, Religion, published "Psalm 51 on Ash Wednesday" in *Sacramental Life*.

MARK RATKUS, Economics, presented "The Economics Internship: Active Learning and Professional Work Experience" at the annual Teaching Economics Conference.

KEVIN RILEY, Psychology, facilitated "Ethical Psychotherapy Supervision Across Developmental Phases" for the Pennsylvania Psychological Association Continuing Education Program.

JOHN ROSSI, History, published *The 1964 Phillies: The Story of Baseball's Most Memorable Collapse*, McFarland & Co.

FRANCIS RYAN, American Studies, facilitated "Undergraduate Research in American Studies" at the Mid-Atlantic American Studies Association Conference at Rutgers University.

MICHAEL SMITH, Communication, authored "Spotlight Events, Media Relations, and Place Promotion: A Case Study" in the *Journal of Hospitality and Leisure Marketing*.

STEPHEN SMITH, English, presented "Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*: A Dramaturgical Perspective" at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

MARGOT SOVEN, English, published *What the Writing Tutor Needs to Know*, Thomson Publishers.

GEORGE STOW, History, presented "Concerning the Authorship of the Continuatio Eulogii" at the annual Medieval Studies Colloquium at Western Michigan University.

JUDITH STULL, Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, authored "Profile of Teachers' Use of Technology in the Mid-Atlantic Region" in *TechnoBrief*.

BOB VOGEL, Education, presented "Leadership and Global Understanding—A Civic Leadership Initiative" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.

WILLIAM WEAVER, ISBT, writes a monthly column for *Scientific Computing and Instrumentation*.

DEBORAH YOST, Education, authored "Reforming Teacher Education Practices: Linking Research and School-Based Knowledge" in *The Pennsylvania Educator*.

ELAINE ZELLEY, Communication, presented a competitively selected instructional training module at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Boston.

SOCIAL WORK REACCREDITED, RECEIVES \$500 GIFT

La Salle's Social Work program has received two bits of good news in recent months. First, the program's faculty learned that three years of intense review and evaluation had culminated in full reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. Then came word that a donor had given \$500 to benefit a student award.

"We couldn't have done it without the support of the President, the Provost, the Dean, and our colleagues in the University community. Our Social Work Advisory Board was also a huge help and an integral part of our program," Bonni Zetick, Ph.D., Acting Chair of the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice said of the reaccreditation process.

The \$500 donation the program received from renowned psychologist Matti Gershensfeld will fund the Ruth Mahar, D.C., Grace and Grit Award, which is given to a Social Work student who balances single parenthood and academics.

INSTITUTE REACHES OUT TO HISPANIC POPULATION

La Salle University has established a Hispanic Institute to house existing programs that deal with Spanish language and culture and to develop new programs to serve the growing Hispanic population in the region and the nation.

"We created this organization to serve a changing demographic world," said Luis Gomez, Ph.D., Director of the Hispanic Institute and an Assistant Professor of Spanish.

Several programs currently being offered at La Salle are designed to help professionals meet government requirements or reach out to the Spanish-speaking community. The University offers a master's degree in Bilingual/Bicultural Studies, which is designed for professionals, such as doctors, nurses, law enforcement officers, and social workers, who work with a Spanish-speaking population. In addition, there is a certificate program for teachers who want to become certified to teach English as a Second Language in Pennsylvania and a graduate-level certificate in Translation: English/Spanish-Spanish/English.

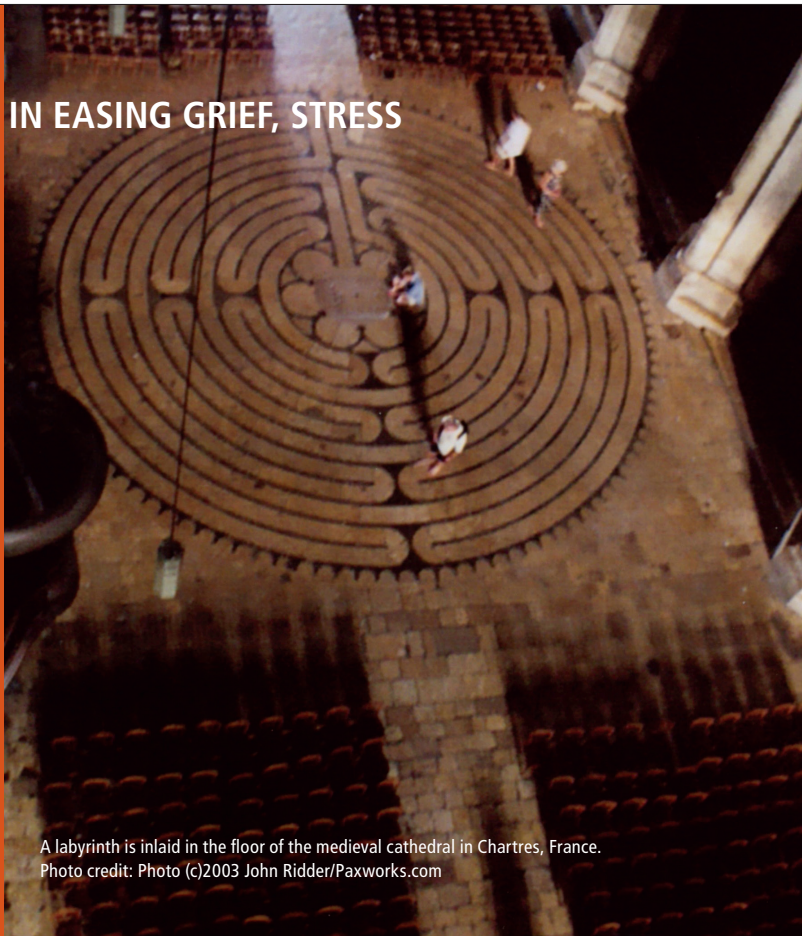
PROFESSORS EXPLORE LABYRINTH'S ROLE IN EASING GRIEF, STRESS

From La Salle's chapel to a medieval cathedral in France to support groups around the region, La Salle Professors Lynne Texter and Janine Mariscotti have spent the last several years educating themselves and teaching others about the labyrinth, an ancient symbol for meditation and reflection.

"The labyrinth is a metaphor for life's journey," said Texter, Chair of the Communication Department. "For reasons we can't explain, as people walk the path, they often feel something powerful."

Texter and Mariscotti, an Assistant Professor of Social Work, have researched the effects of the labyrinth on those who walk it. They have also purchased two portable canvas labyrinths, one 36 feet and the other 24 feet, that they use for presentations and workshops at La Salle and at hospices, support groups, and other nonprofit community agencies.

Their surveys and other research have shown that the act of walking the winding path of the labyrinth, which is not a maze but has one fixed path in and out, can produce dramatic results in people who are grieving, under stress, or simply looking for a way to relax.



A labyrinth is inlaid in the floor of the medieval cathedral in Chartres, France.
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